

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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<http://hss.state.ak.us/ocs/nutri/WIC/Default.htm>

Reply to: All Local Agencies Memo No. 04-12

DATE: December 13, 2004
TO: X- WIC Coordinators
X – Satellite Clinics
FROM: Kathleen Wayne
State WIC Director
SUBJECT: Implementation of the Certification and General Administration Provisions s of P.L. 108-265

Action: X
Information:
Policy: X
Urgent (fax and hard copy):
Routine (hard copy only): X

This memorandum transmits USDA guidance on the implementation of the nondiscretionary certification and general administration provisions of Public Law 108-265, the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, enacted on Juneau 30, 2004. Policy changes outlined below became effective on October 1, 2004.

Key Policy Changes:

- Nutrition Education:** The definition of “nutrition education” now reads as follows: Nutrition education means individual and group sessions and the provision of materials that are designed to improve health status and achieve positive change in dietary and **physical activity** habits, and that emphasize the relationship between nutrition, **physical activity and cultural preferences** of the individual.
- Supplemental Foods:** The definition of “supplemental foods” now reads as follows: Supplemental foods means those foods containing nutrients determined by nutritional research to be lacking in the diets of pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children **and foods that promote the health of the population served by the WIC program as indicated by relevant nutrition science, public health concerns, and cultural eating patterns**, as prescribed by the Secretary.
- Certification Period for Breastfeeding Women:** A breastfeeding woman may, at the State agency’s option, be certified for a period for up to one year postpartum, or until she stops

breastfeeding, whichever occurs first. This will allow State and local WIC agencies to certify a breastfeeding mother and infant for the same period of time.

Implementing the above will require IT update of the AKWIC system and installing the change on all local agency servers. Eric will advise us as soon as this work is completed and will provide guidance for its implementation relative to the computer functions.

4. **Physical Presence Requirement:** An exemption from the physical presence requirement now applies to an infant or child receiving ongoing health care from any health care provider, including the local agency. It also includes a new exemption from the physical presence requirement for infants under 8 weeks of age who cannot be present at the time of certification (for a reason determined appropriate by the local agency) and for whom all necessary certification information is provided.

Changes to the AK WIC Policy and Procedure Manual have been made to reflect the changes listed above. A copy of the USDA memo and relevant pages of the Policy and Procedure Manual are attached. Please replace the appropriate pages of your Policy and Procedure Manual with the attachments.

If you have any questions regarding these provisions or this memorandum, please contact Becky Carrillo at 465-8629 or Dana Kent at 465-5322.

Attachment

CC: Juneau and Anchorage Reading Files